

Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace paragraph [0059] with the following amended paragraph:

[0059] A handle 58 extends over the outer surface of the flap extension 56. The lower edge of the handle 58 is spaced away from the outer surface of the flap extension 56, so that a user can grasp the handle 58 in the palm of their hand, with their fingers extending around the lower edge of the handle. A concealed spring 5960, connected between the flap extension 56 and the exterior of the wall 15 of the bin 14, biases the flap 16 upwardly. A seal 59 extends around the flap 16 to seal against the bottom edge of the wall 15 of the bin 14.

Please replace paragraph [0060] with the following amended paragraph:

[0060] In use, when the bin 14 is stowed on the body 11 of the vacuum cleaner, the flap 16 is in the closed position of Figure 10. The spring 5960 serves to retain the flap 16 in the closed position, so that no dirt and dust can escape. The handle 58 is preferably concealed behind the bin 14 when the latter is stowed on the body 11 of the vacuum cleaner.

Please replace paragraph [0063] with the following amended paragraph:

[0063] In order to fully empty the bin 14, the user has to pull the lower edge of the handle 58 away from the bin 14, causing the lower projections 57 to slide along the bottom of their respective u-shaped slots 54, allowing the flap 16 to pivot further open about an axis extending through the upper projections 55. The downwards force on the handle 58 is then released, thereby causing the lower projections 57 to move a short distance up the short arms 54b of the lower slots 54. The spring 5960 serves to retain the flap 16 in this fully open position, as shown in Figure 11, in which all of the remaining dirt and dust inside the bin 14 is free to fall through the open bottom of the bin 14.